



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DePuy, H.S.
State Ed. Dept.

January 9, 1979

Dr. Hadley S. DePuy
Deputy Commissioner for Higher
and Professional Education
The State Education Department
Cultural Education Center
Albany, New York 12230

Dear Dr. DePuy:

On behalf of the Rockefeller University and of New York University we wish to propose the appointment of Professor I. M. Singer to an Albert Einstein Professorship, the position to be shared by the two institutions. Professor Singer has expressed his strong interest in accepting the Einstein Chair, should it be offered.

Professor Singer, currently at the University of California at Berkeley on leave from his post as Norbert Wiener Professor of Mathematics at M.I.T., is one of the world's leading mathematicians. He has made fundamental and lasting contributions to a wide spectrum of subjects, embracing among others Operator Theory, Differential Geometry, Analysis, Topology, and most recently Relativity Theory and the Theory of Gauge Fields. (A more detailed summary of Singer's scientific achievements as well as a full bibliography is enclosed.)

A brilliant lecturer, who generates excitement and enthusiasm in colleagues and students alike, Singer would be a tremendous asset to the mathematical community of the City and of the State. His already strong scientific ties to many of the mathematicians and physicists at Rockefeller University, New York University, Columbia University, Yeshiva University, C.U.N.Y., and the State University at Stony Brook would be further strengthened if he were in residence. There is little doubt that his influence both on research and on education would extend far beyond the limits of the City of New York, adding renewed vigor to the mathematical and scientific community in the State.

In addition to his activities in research and teaching, since 1970 Singer has served on the Committee on Science and Public Policy (COSPOP) of the National Academy of Sciences. Since 1975 he has been its singularly effective Chairman. When in 1977 New York State established committees to evaluate the graduate programs in Mathematics throughout the State, Singer served as a member on the central coordinating Committee.

Our proposal is that Singer hold a regular full professorship at both institutions with Rockefeller University assuming the principal responsibility for administering the Einstein Chair. Both Universities would supplement on an equal basis the stipend accompanying the Chair so as to provide funds for secretarial help, fringe benefits and the like. In addition, every effort will be made by the long-standing Visiting Membership program for postdoctoral visitors at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences of New York University to accommodate visitors of special interest to Singer. We would also expect Dr. Singer to obtain Federal funds to support two younger colleagues. It is anticipated that Dr. Singer will be in residence during alternate semesters at each institution, and he will teach and carry on research at both institutions. Of course, his students will always have access to him, and he will participate on thesis committees at both institutions.

Once the appointment is in place, we will also explore ways for students to take advantage of appropriate resources at each institution. Thus Dr. Singer will help form an important new link between the Universities. Rockefeller University, though mainly preeminent in the biomedical fields, has a small but vigorous and strong group in Theoretical and Mathematical Physics. The Courant Institute of New York University is world renowned as a center of Mathematical Analysis and Applied Mathematics. Singer is a key figure in the new interchange of ideas linking modern Mathematics and Physics, and he would provide the necessary catalysis to unite the strengths within both institutions. In addition, his presence would make New York a leading center of Functional Analysis and Geometry.

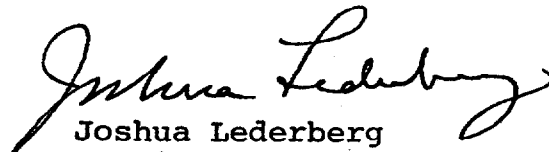
While a shared appointment sets an innovative educational precedent for the Einstein Chair, we feel that it will provide a valuable model for collaboration between institutions of higher learning. The very novelty of the undertaking leaves a number of administrative details unresolved, so that at this point the

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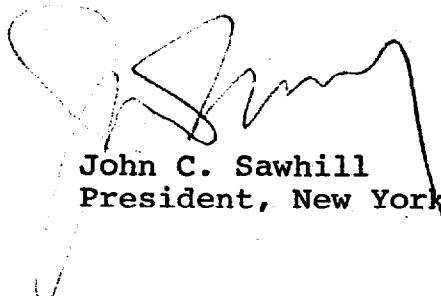
precise structuring of the arrangement has not been fully described. Since the faculties and staff of both institutions are most enthusiastic about the prospects of the venture, we are fully confident that no major difficulties will be encountered.

To attract Professor Singer here is an unparalleled opportunity for The Rockefeller University, New York University, and the State of New York.

Sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg
President, The Rockefeller University



John C. Sawhill
President, New York University

Enclosures